



## No More Glue!

**Western Allied Mechanical in Union City, California, was an early adopter of Johns Manville Linacoustic® RC-IG duct liner. The ability to be glue-free and remove solvents from the shop is a gamechanger for the business.**

“No more glue!” Harvey LaFlamme, shop foreman for Western Allied Mechanical in California, said ditching the messy adhesive in his shop has been great. His guys agree — using Johns Manville Linacoustic RC-IG, a duct liner with a water-activated adhesive in lieu of glue — is a big advantage.

“Glue gets everywhere, no matter what you do,” LaFlamme said. “The guys love [RC-IG]. They’re not getting dirty, with glue all over their boots and hands and in their hair.”

The cleanliness is just one of many benefits that LaFlamme mentioned regarding the RC-IG product. Others include ease of installation and time savings — in other words, a lot of pluses.

Linacoustic RC-IG insulation is a flexible, fiberglass duct liner. One side contains InsulGrip®, a non-toxic, water-reactivated adhesive layer, eliminating the need for glue. Instead, fabricators simply spray RC-IG with water, activating the adhesive, and then attach it to the metal duct. Once it sets up (within minutes), the insulation is adhered to the sheet metal as it would be with traditional glue — just with less mess. After that, it is pinned per SMACNA guidelines.

The airstream surface of RC-IG is protected with JM’s exclusive Reinforced Coating System, which combines our state-of-the-art Permacote® acrylic coating with a flexible glass mat reinforcement to provide a smooth air stream surface.

### PRODUCT

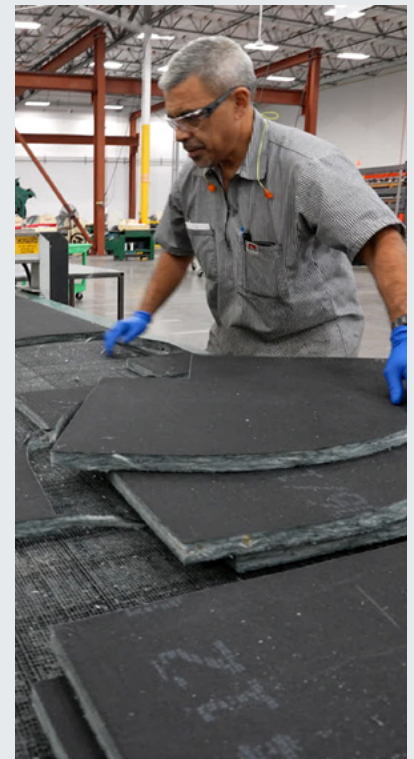
Linacoustic® RC-IG duct liner

### CONTRACTOR

Western Allied Mechanical

### LOCATION

Union City, California





## Introductions

LaFlamme was introduced to Linacoustic RC-IG in its infancy. His vendor brought him samples and he laughed, saying he wasn't sure what they were going to try to sell him — but he quickly knew the product had promise.

"Right away, I started thinking of how many advantages there were," he said. "I wanted to try it on a real job, so we got it wet, that 6-by-6-inch square, and it stuck. They were able to get me a full roll and we used it on a small project. The next thing we knew, JM wanted me to test different thicknesses."

From there, Western Allied Mechanical was running the RC-IG product, as well as the original Linacoustic RC products, in different thicknesses, until everything they needed was available in the RC-IG form and they could ditch glue altogether.

"That was another crash test for us — converting our coil line," LaFlamme said. "I think I was the first one to do it, retrofitting for water. We were on our journey of moving to a brand-new facility, and it was nice and clean, and we didn't want to mess the place up, since glue gets everywhere, no matter what you do.

"By that time, we were full on using all the thicknesses of RC-IG and so it worked out that we could go to all water. That was a huge plus."

## Reaping the Benefits

Another aspect of RC-IG being cleaner, LaFlamme said, is its relation to labor. And in California, where labor rates are some of the highest in the nation, every minute saved makes a difference.

"We do a lot of exposed ductwork, and you always get some glue on the outside that has to be taken off — and that takes labor," he said. "So RC-IG saves us on labor there too."

He said he's impressed with the adhesive layer on the RC-IG product, noting that it works well when sprayed with a mist of water.

"With glue, if you don't apply it properly, then you might have flappy edges and parts that don't stick well," he explained. "With this, the way we have the water, it sprays a very wide mist and applies everywhere and it's edge to edge and actually works very well.


"The guys in the shop had mixed feelings about it when we started with it, with some thinking it wasn't going to work. But now, they're not getting dirty. Everyone loves it."

## About the Contractor

Headquartered in Union City, California, Western Allied Mechanical was founded in 1961. The company specializes in mechanical contracting, design/build, HVAC service and maintenance, retrofit and replacement projects, as well as LEED and Green projects. Western Allied employs more than 150 sheet metal and pipefitter tradesmen and services the greater Bay Area.

**For JM customer support or technical assistance, call 1-800-293-3393.**



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